TELESCOPE-MESSENGER

Center for the Evangelical
United Brethren Heritage

United Theological Seminary Dayton, Ohio

Volume 30 No.1 Winter 2022

WORDS FROM THE WISE

What can history teach us?
. . .[I]t will not predict the future, but it may well be instructive for the future.

Bob Frey

WELCOME BACK

Warm greetings and welcome back to the *Telescope-Messenger*!

One of the highest priorities of the Center for EUB Heritage in the past year has been to resume publication of the *Telescope-Messenger*. The sudden death of the previous editor, Dr. Bob Frey, saddened us all and led to a gap in publishing. As publication of the TM resumes, we want first to honor Bob's memory. It has been a challenge to fill his shoes. Thank you for your patience in awaiting this issue. After much prayerful, good work by a wonderful new team, we are pleased to present this issue.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

As you examine this issue, you will notice some changes since the previous number. We welcome feedback, as it is a work in progress. As you peruse this issue, you will: receive greetings and updates from some of the leaders of the Center for the EUB Heritage (CEUBH); be introduced to the members of our TM team, as well as our new Archivist and his work. As in the past, normally we will include a historical article about some aspect of the EUB heritage. In this transitional issue, however, we are instead featuring important updates, introductions, and much good news in our limited space.

Enjoy!

In addition to honoring Dr. Frey, our aspiration for each issue of the TM is to do our best to interpret the EUB heritage that continues in and beyond The United Methodist Church. We will accomplish this goal by adding to the knowledge and understanding of the EUB heritage in the church and world. In doing so, we seek to serve Jesus Christ and revere the same Holy Spirit who guided our ancestors in the faith.

Rev. Dr. Wendy J. Deichmann Director of the Center for the EUB Heritage (CEUBH)

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More from the Director

There are many developments at the Center since the last issue:

- The Center has hired Dr. Andy Wood as Archivist on a part-time basis. He is on the job and ready to help with research on all things EUB!
- Rev. MaryAnn Tomlinson is graciously working with members to update our mailing list.
- Rev. Ron Mowry is assembling a team to lead a fund drive in support of the Center and its future.
- Our financial planning team has created a budget for 2023.
- The Center co-sponsored a historic Conference, "Heirs of Pietism in World Christianity," this past June, and is projecting another to occur in the spring of 2024. Plans are under way to publish the presentations of the first conference in book form.
- We have been updating the Center's website. Check it out at: https://united.edu/center-for-the-evangelical-united-brethren-heritage-eub/
- We have created a short video on the history of the EUB Church, available in the Nelson room on campus and online at the above link.
- With the gracious assistance of the UTS library staff, we have created an outstanding display of historic EUB artifacts in the Nelson room at the seminary.
- Library Director Ken Cochrane and his staff have continued digitization of EUB archival materials to make these available anywhere with internet access.
- We are grateful for valuable donations of books and artifacts that have been received in recent months. These gifts will benefit students and researchers far into the future!
- The Center provided a reception with EUB displays and refreshments for the 150th anniversary celebration of the seminary in October of 2021.

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In conclusion

It is my pleasure to work with great colleagues at the Center for the EUB Heritage. We are blessed with a terrific Advisory Council and Executive Committee that have accomplished an impressive amount of important work recently. Rev. Gary Olin, who chairs the Council, will report separately on several new initiatives.

Let me add that the outstanding team developing this publication, including Rychie Breidenstein, Mark Condy, Andy Wood, MaryAnn Tomlinson, Harold Stockman, and Sarah Blair, have made its resumption possible with their generous contributions of talent and hard work.

In recent months, many have inquired about the status of the *Telescope-Messenger*, and we are happy finally to have it before you.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Center for the EUB Heritage!

--WD

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Revising, Re-visioning & Renewing the Center

The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage owes its existence to the wise actions of a group of United Theological Seminary professors, who, in 1979 established the Center as an arm of the seminary. The purpose of the Center was to interpret the history, heritage, and ethos of the Evangelical United Brethren to the UTS community, larger church, nation, and world. For many years that dedicated group cared faithfully for the work of the Center as directors of the Center and members of its advisory council.

In 2021, more than fifty years later, the present advisory council realized that it was time to renew the Center's mandate and update its operations. At that same time, Dr. Wendy Deichmann was appointed the director of the Center. Encouraged by her engaging leadership, the council initiated a re-examination of the Center's purpose and the prospects for its future. To that end, Dr. Edwin Zeiders, at the direction of the council, organized a visioning task group in the spring of 2021. This group worked for the following year, presenting its final report to the May 16, 2022 meeting of the advisory council.

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The task group's report addressed specific areas of concern with a number of recommendations to enhance the work of the Center. A revision of the By-Laws was one of the recommendations. These revised By-Laws seek to clarify some issues that had been assumed when the council initially consisted of that close knit group of United Seminary persons.

In the new By-Laws the Center's relationship to the seminary is reaffirmed, making clear that the Center and its director are under the office of the seminary president, while also affirming that the scope of the Center's mandate extends to the wider EUB constituency beyond United Seminary. A new provision in the By-Laws provides for a chairperson of the advisory council. In the past, the Center's director was also the chair of the council.

In another matter, the council adopted a visioning group recommendation, which underscores the importance of the EUB ethos as a centering principle for United Seminary, realizing that United is perhaps the only remaining institution to directly embody the EUB heritage. One recommendation from the visioning group which has significant implications for the future of the Center was the establishment of a fund raising/development committee to plan and carry out appropriate programs to provide the necessary financial support for the future work of the Center, including the funding of a full-time archivist. This committee is now in place, chaired by Rev. Ron Mowry. The committee will be initiating opportunities to give to the work of the Center for all those who want to preserve and perpetuate the EUB heritage.

It is the hope and prayer of the advisory council that these renewed actions will advance the work of the Center for EUB Heritage for years to come.

--Rev. Dr. Gary Olin, Chair,
EUB Heritage Advisory Council

* * *

Helping Accomplish Our Mission and Ministry

During the past year the EUB Heritage Advisory Council took "a leap of faith" to fund a part-time archivist through our budget alone. Andy Wood was hired with the blessings of the Seminary for fifteen hours of work each week. This salary item will cost us $[redacted] in the coming year. Andy has already done a fantastic job keeping our vast,

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growing collection in better order and dealing with the questions about the Archives which are received so regularly. Part of Andy's training as an archivist was under the guidance of Tim Binkley, our previous Archivist.

How Can You Help?

As Charles Kettering once said, "We should all be concerned about the future because we have to spend the rest of our lives there."

Presently the Budget sub-committee has learned that four persons from the EUB Heritage Committee are willing to underwrite approximately $[redacted] of the archivist's annual salary. This item is the largest budget item we have.

If you are willing to join us in this effort to underwrite part of the archivist's support, today or in the future, and/or other portions of our yearly budget for The Center, please contact Vice-President of UTS Development Callie Picardo or UTS Treasurer Steve Swallow and share your own passion about our plans. We are striving to keep our entire budget around $20,000 this year.

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Meet the Archivist

When someone enthusiastically loves history, more specifically the preservation of all things historical, their enthusiasm can be contagious. This is the case with Dr. Andy Wood, the new Archivist for the Center for the EUB Heritage.

Andy began his work as part-time Archivist for the Center in December 2021 even as he was (and is) working to complete his Certificate in Archives and Records Management at Wright State University, having already earned an MTS from Vanderbilt University and a PhD in history from Auburn University.

In each TM Andy will have the opportunity to let you know what is happening in your EUB Archive on a page we call "Meeting at the Archives." There you can find Andy's semi-annual report of all that he has been doing for the Center, as well as discussion of donations that have been made to the Archives. As we re-launch the Telescope-Messenger, it is with great pride, pleasure, and excitement for the future that we introduce you to Andy Wood, our new Archivist.

Collecting, Preserving, Interpreting

Greetings from the Archives! It is a great pleasure and honor to be the new archivist for the Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage.

Several of you may know my wife Mandy, who has worked for many years with EUB friends as the accountant in the Development office at United. Though neither of us have an EUB family background, both of us value the contributions former EUBs have made to God's work in this world, and we resonate with the EUB "ethos."

While I was involved in post dissertation manuscript research as a Research Fellow at the Center for Methodist Studies at SMU, under former United archivist Timothy Binkley, I discovered in myself a passion for preservation and collection of historical records. Tim, and my good friend Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair encouraged me to pursue that passion as a calling. So, in the Fall of 2019 I started coursework for an archives certificate at Wright State University, where Tim also completed his training.

Since I began my duties as Archivist in late December last year, there have been many contacts and requests from friends, supporters, and patrons of the Archives and Heritage Center. One project among these requests is particularly exciting. A PhD dissertation is being written about the Gomers, the first African-American missionaries to Sierra Leone from the United Brethren Church. It has been an honor to be a resource for such a worthy project, and I hope to encourage and facilitate projects like it in the future.

In addition to answering these questions and requests, and because I believe strongly in the value of being a subject specialist in archival work, I quickly realized I needed to deepen my own knowledge of the EUB tradition if I was to be a resource for others. Therefore, my first task as Archivist was to compile an EUB bibliography. It has been shared with Dr. Deichmann's EUB History class this fall. In addition to compiling this resource, several of us at United were asked to write, and are writing, EUB and Methodist history entries for the upcoming 4th edition of the Historical Dictionary of Methodism.

In July Sarah Blair and I attended the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History in Michigan. Earlier this spring, we completed a short-video project at the request of the UM General Commission on Archives and History at Drew. We have participated in several meetings aimed at improving and expanding the impact of the CEUBH and its archives.

At the Pietist Conference in June of 2022 I gave a presentation on the CEUBH archival holdings–and EUB culture of historical preservation.

Since I arrived in the Archives, we have acquired a HEPA vacuum and attachments for cleaning archival materials. In partnership with Ken Cochrane and Mark Condy of the library staff, I am advocating for the physical safety and security of our collections, including our growing collection of artwork.

We are presently working with a retired faculty member on a donation of personal papers, and I hope to implement an agenda to preserve important, but rarely utilized EUB publications. I am planning an implementation of new software that will integrate our archival records, the library catalog, and United's development records to enable us more successfully to process and manage new donations and current holdings.

It has been a busy and exciting first year, and if all goes well, there will be many more to come.

--Yours for Collecting,
Preserving,
and Interpreting,
Andy

* * *

Helping Accomplish Our Mission and Ministry (cont'd)

We also have an EUB Endowment Fund and The EUB Reber Memorial Fund. We at the Center appreciate all gifts and can help to arrange monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual giving. Thank-you in advance for sharing in this great vision.

--Rev. Harold M. Stockman
EUB Heritage Center
Treasurer

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or website: https://united.edu/center-for-the-evangelical-united-brethren-heritage-eub/ There click on Membership & Donation.

Membership types include:
Member: $25 - $49.99
Supporting Member: $50 - $499
Life Member: $500 - $999
Preservationist: $1000 or more

All memberships include a subscription to the Center's newsletter, the *Telescope-Messenger.*